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DIST 21 SEPTEMBER 1973

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SPOKE WITH GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
AIR FORCE, AND SEVERAL OTHER UNNAMED MILITARY OFFICERS WHO WERE
INVOLVED IN THE COUP AND ARE NOW IN THE GOVERNMENT. BASED ON HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE OFFICERS, [REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS [REDACTED]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE JUN 11 1990

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COMMENT [REDACTED] WAS ALWAYS OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE AND HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY "HARD LINE" IN HIS ATTITUDE.)

2. THE ORGANIZERS OF THE COUP MOVED INTO HIGH GEAR IN THEIR PLANNING WITH THE DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL CARLOS PRATS. THEY BELIEVED THAT PRATS COULD BE NEUTRALIZED, AND IT INDICATED TO THEM THE GREATER POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETE UNITY AMONG THE SERVICES IN A MOVE AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.

3. WHEN ALLENDE MET ABOUT EARLY SEPTEMBER WITH THE AIR FORCE GENERALS, HE FACED A COMMON AND DISCIPLINED FRONT. THE PRESIDENT HAD DISMISSED GENERAL CESAR RUIZ AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE AND AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION; HE THEN OFFERED BOTH POSITIONS TO LEIGH. LEIGH SAID HE WAS NOT A MARXIST, WOULD NOT HAVE HIS FAMILY NAME SULLIED BY PARTICIPATION IN A MARXIST GOVERNMENT, AND REFUSED BOTH OFFERS. ALLENDE THEN TURNED TO THE NEXT SENIOR GENERAL, WHO MADE VIRTUALLY THE SAME SPEECH. ALLENDE COMMENTED THAT THE GENERALS HAD APPARENTLY COME PREPARED AS A GROUP. ALLENDE THEN ASKED LEIGH IF HE WOULD ACCEPT ONLY THE POSITION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. BEFORE HE COULD REPLY, ANOTHER

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GENERAL NUDGED LEIGH, WHO THEN ASKED FOR TIME TO THINK OVER THE OFFER. AT THAT POINT, ALLENDE REALIZED THAT HE WAS DEALING WITH A NEW SITUATION AMONG THE MILITARY.

4. THE MILITARY LEADERS DID NOT WANT ALLENDE'S DEATH. THEY HAD ARRANGED FOR A PLANE TO BE READIED TO TAKE HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY. A HELICOPTER WAS SENT TO THE PALACE WITH INTERMEDIARIES WHO WERE TO DETERMINE ALLENDE'S WISHES; SNIPERS ON NEARBY ROOFTOPS RIDDLED THE HELICOPTER WITH BULLETS AND IT HAD TO TURN BACK. ALLENDE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.

5. EDUARDO "COCO" PAREDES, CHIEF OF INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE, WAS KILLED DURING THE COUP. AMONG HIS PAPERS, AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED AN INVENTORY OF SOVIET-ORIGIN WEAPONS THAT WERE BROUGHT INTO CHILE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO THROUGH CUBAN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. PAREDES HAD COOPERATED IN PASSING THESE WEAPONS THROUGH CHILEAN CUSTOMS. THESE WERE THE WEAPONS THAT WERE FOUND IN THE PALACE.

COMMENT: ACTUALLY, PAREDES WAS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS IN MARCH 1972. HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPT TO PASS A NUMBER OF PARCELS THAT ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO ABOARD A CUBAN AIRCRAFT PAST CUSTOMS ILLEGALLY. THE PARCELS WERE WIDELY SUSPECTED OF CONTAINING ARMS.

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ALLENDE CLAIMED THEY WERE GIFTS OF ART OBJECTS FROM FIDEL CASTRO. PAREDES WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED DURING THE INITIAL HOURS OF THE COUP AFTER HE KILLED SEVERAL CARABINERO OFFICERS.)

6. THE PREVAILING MOOD AMONG THE CHILEAN MILITARY IS TO USE THE CURRENT OPPORTUNITY TO STAMP OUT ALL VESTIGES OF COMMUNISM IN CHILE FOR GOOD. SEVERE REPRESSION IS PLANNED. THE MILITARY IS ROUNDING UP LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING STUDENTS AND LEFTISTS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, AND INTERNING THEM. THE MILITARY HAS ORDERED AN END TO ALL SNIPER ACTIVITIES AND OTHER VIOLENCE, AND IT IS CONSIDERING KILLING 50 LEFTISTS FOR EVERY SNIPER WHO IS STILL OPERATING AFTER ABOUT 15 DAYS.

7. ABOUT 300 STUDENTS WERE KILLED IN THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY WHEN THEY REFUSED TO SURRENDER.

8. THERE HAVE BEEN CRUELTY AND PROVOCATIONS BY ARMED ELEMENTS OF THE POPULAR UNITY (U.P.). IN ONE INCIDENT IN A WORKING CLASS SLUM, THEY KILLED SIX POLICEMEN AND WOUNDED TWO MORE. WHEN AN AMBULANCE ARRIVED TO ASSIST THE WOUNDED MEN, THE SLUM DWELLERS LET THE AMBULANCE ENTER, KILLED THE DOCTOR AND AN ORDERLY, AND THEN KILLED THE OTHER TWO POLICEMEN.

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9. THERE IS NO INDICATION WHATEVER THAT THE MILITARY PLANS
ANY EARLY RELINQUISHMENT OF FULL POLITICAL POWER IN CHILE.

10. [REDACTED]

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